



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Attorney General McGraw again warns consumers to beware of
Telemarketing Scams that require disclosure of bank account numbers**

Over the past year, Attorney General Darrell McGraw has released several warnings to consumers to beware of callers who contact them to give away money and cash awards in exchange for a "small processing fee". The scam always requires the consumer to disclose their checking account number. These calls are on the rise.

Recently, several Senior Citizens have been scammed by companies claiming to give away Government Grants to Seniors for Prescription Drugs. Several students have been scammed by companies claiming to give away money for school. In the last couple of days, the Consumer Protection Division has been notified by consumers who have been contacted by a company claiming to have cash awards for consumers from companies who have violated the Federal Do Not Call Registry. As with the other scams, the telemarketer tells the consumer that he needs to first provide his checking account number before he can get his cash award.

In all cases, these are scams, and in all cases the consumer should never release their bank account information.

Attorney General Darrell McGraw warns, "Giving out banking account numbers may result in unauthorized withdrawals from the consumer's account. Beware of giving out personal information or bank account numbers to anyone who cannot prove to you their identity."

If you have been a victim of this type, or any consumer fraud, or if you would like more information on this sort of telemarketing scam, Attorney General McGraw's Consumer Protection Division by calling our toll-free consumer hotline at 1-800-368-8808 or locally 304-558-8986.

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